

Feb 752/753

Colombia - Venezuela

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Boundary treaty between Colombia and Venezuela, signed April 5, 1941. In English. In: Report No. 819, of April 7, 1941, from M.A. Colombia, which cites "El Tiempo" of April 6, 1941 as source

Article 1 ... Colombia and ... Venezuela ... acknowledge as definitive and irrevocable the boundaries fixed by the boundary commissions in 1901, by the commission of Swiss experts, and those which are made jointly by the commissions appointed in accordance with par. 4. of this article. which provides for a demarcation commission for the portions of the boundary agreed upon in this treaty

Paragraph 1. In the region of the Río de Oro, second section, the boundary will be the course of the said river from its mouth in the Catatumba, upstream to where the Río de Oro separates into two branches one to the north and the other to the southwest; and from there it will follow by the branch of the north to the point where it receives its first tributary called Río Intermedio or Duda (doubt) and then by the most southern course of this tributary called Río Intermedio or Duda to its origin in the sierra of Parijá - Motilones. On the map attached to this document there is shown, according to this description, the frontier agreed upon.

-2-

Paragraph 2. In the fifth section region of the rivers Oirá and Arôuca, the boundaries will be the course of the said Oirá from its origin in the Páramo de Tamá to the point where its waters join those of a river which descends from the cordillera of Tamá in a west-east direction and from this point, whose coordinates will be fixed astronomically a right line to the point considered by the Boundary Commission its act of Paso del Viento, June 7, 1901, as the mouth of the Oirá in the Arôuca.

Paragraph 3. In order to determine the sovereignty of the Island of Charo in the river Arouca, according to the stipulation in Art. 1, clause of the boundary agreement, between Venezuela and Colombia of the 17th December, 1928, the watercourse of this river will be determined.

Paragraph 4.

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Colombia - Venezuela

Republic of Colombia. Ministerio de relaciones exteriores,
Oficina de longitudes y fronteras:

Arreglo de limites entre la Republica de Colombia y la

Republica de los Estados unidos de Venezuela,

1943, Editorial Litografia Colombia, Bogotá. (With

maps and plans). 227 pages; 33 maps and plans. Coordinates
Tr. with despatch 2245 of June 5, 1943, from Emb. of U.S.A.,
Bogotá, Colombia. (721.3115/164).

Enclosure: Via steamer pouch)

1. Copy of "pamphlet" as above.

Notations: (1) "2 copies attached and sent to RP 8/18/43

RP: L.F. Harper

(2) Li stamp: "1 copy recd in Li."

Note per SAS: The history of the boundary questions is given
in "Antecedents", on pages 5 - 7.

The publication contains the acts of the various boundary
commission, the latest being "Acta numero 31" in the city
San Cristobal, state of Tachira, Venezuela, March 30, 1943
(see p. 225). The treaty is that of April 5, 1941.

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Colombia - Venezuela

Switzerland Bundesrat:

Arbitrage entre la Colombie et le Venezuela:

Sentence Arbitrale du Conseil Federal Suisse

sur diverses quers. de Limites pendantes entre la
Colombie et le Venezuela. Berne, 24 Mar 1922.

Neuchatel 1922. 148 p 1 fold map 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ cm

F 2280 / Bound with its Affaire de limites entre la Col et le Ven.
V 458 . Sentence preparatoire Neuchatel 1918/ June 17/39
1918
Copy 1

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Colombia - Venezuela Boundary

Desp. 756 of Feb. 27, 1941, Am. Emb., Caracas, Venezuela
(721.3115/142). Confidential File

Possibility of early settlement.

Technical bureaus of each country: "Bureau de Frontiera"
in Caracas and "Oficina de Longitudes" in Bogota.

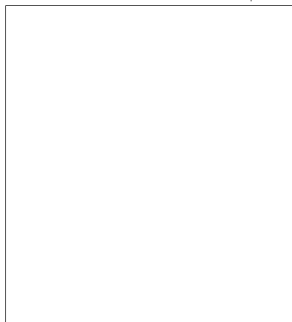
Three points remaining to be settled.

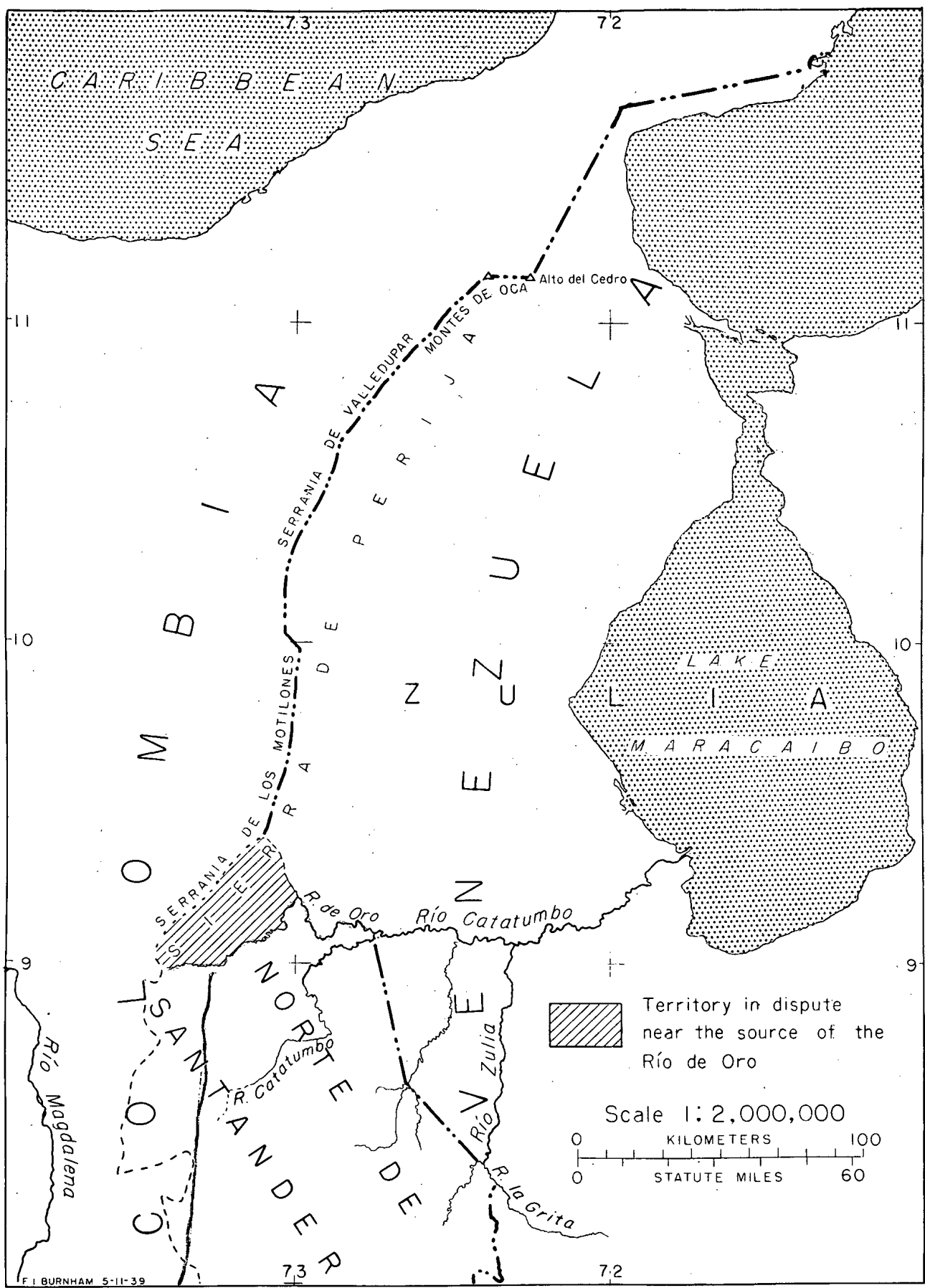
1) The sovereignty of the island of Charo. Shown on sketch map prepared in the Emb. which accomp. desp. 7 in the Arzúca river in Se. Venezuela. Venezuela claims bdy. lies on south side of island.

2) Boundary line in the Rio de Oro region. The original bdy. was to follow the Rio Oro to its jc. with the Catatumbo River. Sixty km north of this jc. the river forks sharply into the Rio del Norte and Rio Sur Este - confusion as to which stream to follow. Venezuela proposal indicated on sketch map.

3) Boundary line along the river Oira, which has virtually disappeared.

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Río Intermedio or Duda

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Y

Colombia-Venezuela Boundary
Controversy in the Rio de Oro Region

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In my letter of March 28, 1940, to Dr. John K. Wright, Director of the American Geographical Society, is the following paragraph:

There are a couple of details which I discovered, of which you may be interested to learn. The first relates to the Colombia-Venezuela boundary in the Rio de Oro region, which appears on the Barranquilla sheet. There is a small region which is in dispute between the two countries, which lies between the Rio Motilones and the headwaters of the Rio de Oro, which is bounded on the west by the mountain range. Your map is impartial but it appears that you were unaware of the dispute. You have used the river names as they appear on Venezuelan maps, and have shown the boundary as it appears on Colombian maps. In other words, each country claims that the headwaters of the Rio de Oro, which would give it the territory which is claimed by both, is properly named the Rio de Oro. Each country of course has another name for the other headwater. Venezuela calls the northern and southern headwaters respectively the Rio Motilones and the Rio de Oro, and Colombia calls them the Rio de Oro and the Rio Rincon.

A memorandum from Mr. Hitchcock, accompanying Dr. Wright's reply of March 29, 1940, includes the following:

In 1935, after publication of the Barranquilla sheet, we received letters from both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Caracas and the Office of Longitudes at Bogota calling our attention to what they called an error on the Barranquilla sheet to the effect that what we called the Rio Motilone is in reality the upper Rio de Oro and what we called the Upper Rio de Oro (that is above the mouth of our Rio Motilone) is actually the Canon Rincon or Rio Loro.

We replied to both of these organizations, informing them that we took the names of the Rio de Oro and its tributaries from the only maps then existing for the Barranquilla compilation which were

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- 2 -

were based on actual exploration of the region. These were the map by H. Case Wilcox, published in the Geographical Review, and a map by A. Faison Dixon made for the Colon Development Company. Neither the Venezuelan Ministry of Foreign Affairs nor the Columbian Office of Longitudes made any mention of the boundary dispute to which Mr. Boggs refers. It is hard to understand how a dispute could have existed at the time when the region, except for the work of these two foreigners, was practically unknown.

You will be interested in a quotation from a letter written in 1935 by the Chief of the Venezuelan Commission on the Boundary with Colombia with respect to the Barranquilla sheet which both commissions used in the field. "The general accuracy which predominates on your work is truly surprising and it is only in the matter of details that some differences could be noted."

S. W. Boggs.

Ge:SWB:EFB
April 2, 1940.